

2007 Navy Community Service Award

Winners Named

Environmental Stewardship Among Program's Flagship Projects

The Navy Community Service—Environmental Stewardship Flagship Awards for 2007 have been announced. This competition recognizes the best year-round, volunteer-supported program or special project that promotes education and good stewardship of environmental resources. The competition is open to Navy commands worldwide. Categories include small, medium and large shore, sea, and overseas commands.

Navy personnel and their civilian counterparts throughout the world continue cleaning up their respective communities by promoting the Navy Community Service Program's (NCSP) five flagship projects:

- Personal Excellence Partnership,
- Health, Safety and Fitness,
- Environmental Stewardship,
- Campaign Drug Free, and
- Project Good Neighbor.

Mr. Patrick Tamburrino, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, offered

his congratulations via naval message released in December 2007 saying, "My wholehearted congratulations to our winners and honorable mentions. Please express my personal Bravo Zulu and thanks to the caring and dedicated Sailors, civilians, and families who selflessly volunteered to protect, preserve, and enhance our environment."

The Winners

Naval Base San Diego earned the top spot for a large shore command for its long-standing Clean Base—Safe Neighborhood program, ensuring a cleaner environment and building trust and partnerships with the communities of South Bay San Diego, Chula Vista, and National City. Volunteers contributed over 36,000 hours and removed nearly 60 tons of trash during 19 events held throughout the year.



Allen Sisson, Fire Chief, Steven Niethamer, Natural Resources Programs Director and Commander Neal Nottrott, Executive Officer of NIOC Sugar Grove plant a native tree during Arbor Day 2007.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Louis Batchelor



Located adjacent to George Washington National Forest, Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC), Sugar Grove, WV, earned the medium shore command honors. Over 200 volunteers planted native species that will help decrease erosion and pollution along the Chesapeake Bay's headwaters. NIOC Sugar Grove also serves as the primary location for many community recreational events and over 200 sporting events each year, during which command personnel disseminate environmental and natural resource information to the public. One such opportunity was NIOC Sugar Grove's 12th Annual Environmental Fair where more than 120 school children participated in various educational presentations and met Smokey Bear.



Jim Fregonara of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources asks wildlife jeopardy questions to local elementary school students during NIOC Sugar Grove's 13th annual Spring Fair. Spring Fling is planned for the third Thursday of every April and centers on safety, health and the environment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Louis Batchelor



ABOVE: ITC(SW/AW) Steven Steckle, CTM1 Ronald Woideck, CTM2 Ronnie Hess and IT3 Julius Brown during an annual river clean-up along the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River.

LEFT: SK2(SW/AW) Christopher Saulsberry, SSGT Paul Kelly (U.S. Air Force) and SH2(SW/AW) Earl Saylor are ready to plant native species along the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River during National Public Lands Day.

U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Louis Batchelor

The Basics About the NCSP

navy military and civilian personnel throughout the world volunteer for meaningful command-sponsored community service projects through the NCSP. The NCSP is sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (CNO N4).

The idea for a Community Service Program came into development in 1985 with a CNO Task Force on Personal Excellence and National Security. In 1987, the Personal Excellence Partnership program was formally established and in 1992 the NCSP was developed to support national youth education goals. "NCSP expands the role of Navy by encouraging community service projects and partnerships that aim to strengthen the academic and personal growth of youth and improve quality of life for Sailors in their communities," says Mass Communications Specialist First Class David Hites, NCSP Manager, Navy Personnel Command.



Twenty-five ATG MIDPAC personnel volunteered to remove debris from a portion of the 18-mile Pearl Harbor Historic Trail.

U.S. Navy photo by PSC(SW) Michael Baines

Transient Personnel Unit (TPU) Norfolk, VA, the small shore category winner, devoted over 2,200 hours to promoting environmental awareness in the Hampton Roads communities surrounding Naval Station Norfolk. Volunteers collected nearly a ton of trash, debris and flotsam during the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Clean the Bay Day event, the Adopt-a-Highway program, Earth Day 2007, and twice-weekly Foreign Object Debris walk-downs at the Naval Station.

One of the Navy's newest commands, USS MESA VERDE (LPD 19), the 2007 medium sea winner, has quickly become a top performer in environmental stewardship and has successfully created a command culture of volunteerism. Balancing between two communities, Pascagoula, MS, where the pre-commissioning unit had been stationed,

and Norfolk, VA, where its detachment was located and it is now home ported, USS MESA VERDE personnel volunteered over 20,000 hours to promote a clean environment and educate elementary school students. In Project Green Thumb, Sailors worked closely with teachers and students in Norfolk and Pascagoula to educate them about the environment and helped clean up and landscape school grounds following Hurricane Katrina.

The mayor of Portsmouth, VA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation recognized 2007 large sea winner USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) with letters of appreciation for its environmental stewardship efforts. Team GW mastered the art of community involvement, partnering with six organizations in four cities surrounding its homeport of Naval Station

WINNERS OF THE 2007 NCSP AWARDS

Large Shore

- Naval Base San Diego, CA
- Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD (Honorable Mention)

Medium Shore

- Navy Information Operations Command, Sugar Grove, WV
- Naval Air Station Meridian, MS (Honorable Mention)

Small Shore

- Transient Personnel Unit, Norfolk, VA
- Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, Pearl Harbor, HI (Honorable Mention)

Large Sea

- USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)

Medium Sea

- USS MESA VERDE (LPD 19)

Large Overseas

- U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam

Medium Overseas

- Mobile Security Squadron 7, Guam

Small Overseas

- Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, Guam



LCDR Nomer Javier clears debris from a Ford Island beach during ATG MIDPAC's annual Earth Day cleanup project.
U.S. Navy photo by PSC(SW) Michael Baines

Norfolk. Even while coming out of a Planned Incremental Availability and Docking period and becoming operational, Team GW exceeded its 5,000 volunteer hours goal by over 1,800 hours through numerous projects within the City of Portsmouth, the Portsmouth Schools Foundation, the City of Norfolk Environmental Action Center, and the City Food Bank.

Guam Commands Lead the Way

Agana, located on Guam's western coast over 5,300 nautical miles from San Diego, is the tiny island home to Submarine Squadron 15 (COMSUBRON FIFTEEN), Mobile Security Squadron SEVEN (MSS-7) and U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, 2007 winners for the small, medium and large overseas categories, respectively.

On a tropical island, opportunities abound for environmental preservation and conservation. By partnering with the Village of Inarajan, the Guam National Wildlife Refuge Ritidian Restoration Project and by participating in the International Coastal

Cleanup program, COMSUBRON FIFTEEN proactively contributed to the maintenance or restoration of Guam's naturally beautiful beaches and shoreline. Many of Guam's public parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and school grounds were made clean and safe through the dedication of the Squadron's Sailors as they recycled, picked up debris, and landscaped throughout the island.

Guam may be a small island, but there's plenty of environmental work to do. MSS-7 partnered with the Village of Sinajana to promote awareness of the environment. Prior to the Sinajana Fiesta, Sailors volunteered 80 hours leading the local sports teams in a clean-up project along the main streets. By leading this project, the command hoped to instill a sense of environmental awareness in the children who participated and promote a source of community pride through the cleanliness of their village.

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam estimates that nearly 25,000 people were positively affected by its proactive commu-

nity environmental outreach. By participating in Guam's annual International Coastal Cleanup, the Adopt-a-Road campaign, and an ongoing beautification project at the Agana Heights Coconut Park, Naval Hospital Guam's impact on environmental stewardship for the local residents is a shining example of continuous improvement and awareness. 📍

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